

HONORING H.E. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA AND COMMEMORATING HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the first official visit to the United States by Indonesia's new President, the first directly elected President in that nation's history, His Excellency Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. President Yudhoyono is well known to many in the United States from his years of service in Indonesia's military, and as Minister of Energy and Mines. In fact, earlier in his career, President Yudhoyono studied for two years in the United States. But this first official working visit as President is a special occasion, and one worth marking in the United States Congress.

Barely two months into his term, the historic and devastating December 26th tsunami struck off Sumatra's north and western coasts. President Yudhoyono traveled to the hard hit areas immediately, and directed his new Cabinet to take steps to do everything possible to expedite immediate relief and assistance. His team undertook a groundbreaking effort to put together a detailed recovery plan, and develop open, inclusive, and transparent processes for aiding the hardest hit communities. President Yudhoyono has followed through on all three commitments he made to the international donor community to take the necessary steps to develop processes and institutions to assure the world that the generous outpouring of assistance is well managed, free of corruption, and gets to the people who need it the most.

There is no doubt that there will continue to be bumps along the road as Indonesia tackles the many difficult issues that arise in rebuilding and re-establishing communities. I remain hopeful that President Yudhoyono's personal commitment and leadership will keep the process moving forward to ensure a full recovery for all the people who suffered so terribly in the aftermath of the tsunami.

I am also encouraged by many other steps President Yudhoyono has taken to address longstanding issues and needs, including: an aggressive anti-corruption agenda; a plan to address serious infrastructure needs that are the basis for moving forward with his economic agenda to reduce poverty and unemployment; as well as improved cooperation with the United States and others in critical areas, such as counter-terrorism, maritime safety and law enforcement. During his visit, I hope we will learn more about how cooperation in all of these areas will be strengthened in the near term.

Furthermore, as the United States develops and diversifies sources of energy, it becomes increasingly clear that Indonesia holds enormous potential. Yet Indonesia's oil and gas sector is in need of additional investment to reverse declining production trends. The Government of Indonesia is keen on reinvigorating revenue streams needed to fund key infrastructure projects as well as health and education programs. I am told that U.S. companies have more than \$6 billion in projects wait-

ing for approval, and that there is a similar amount available for investment in power generation projects—an infrastructure area that needs immediate attention if shortages are to be avoided in the very near future.

I hope President Yudhoyono's visit will help find a way to break the logjam on some of the policy decisions that are needed to allow these investments to be made. To help jumpstart the process, I would also encourage President Bush and his Administration to restart and re-invigorate the bilateral energy talks our governments and business partners enjoyed throughout much of the 1990s.

It is also my sincere hope that our governments will find a way to reverse declining educational enrollment by Indonesian students in U.S. colleges and universities. One of the most effective ways to build bridges between our two nations is through educational exchanges, and at this time when Indonesia's new democratic institutions require the development of management and legal skills, I certainly believe that increasing opportunities for Indonesians to study in the United States should be a top priority.

As my colleagues have heard me say many times, I believe the United States needs to devote more time and attention to broadening and expanding our relationship with Indonesia, the world's third largest democracy and the nation with the largest Muslim population. Increased cooperation and improved relationships in a wide range of areas will help us build a strong bridge across the Pacific, which will benefit and strengthen both of our countries. I look forward to the outcomes of President Yudhoyono's visit and to learning how we in Congress can reinforce and strengthen our ties.

### RECOGNITION OF MRS. MARY GUDE

### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Mary Gude of Dorsey, Illinois. On May 27, Mary Gude will be retiring as a teacher at Trinity Lutheran School in Edwardsville after 30 years of teaching.

Trinity Lutheran School is the only place Mrs. Gude has ever taught. During her years there, she has taught preschool, kindergarten, first and third grades. Most recently, she has been the very beloved second grade teacher. Her second grade classes have been filled with much learning, but also the joy of music and the love of all God's creatures with several classroom pets.

Her second grade classes have annually produced a Second Grade Operetta. These productions are truly a labor of love, taking a great deal of extra time and commitment on Mrs. Gude's part. The shows are enjoyed by all the children of the school, as well as parents and family members.

Mary Gude's years at Trinity have not all been easy. Early in her tenure, she lost her husband to brain cancer and was raising two small children by herself. But God does provide, and in 1980 she married a Lutheran pastor, himself a widower, with two children. Mary Gude and Pastor George Gude together

raised their four children, and she became a part of the family at Emmaus Lutheran Church in Dorsey, where she serves as the choir director yet today.

Today, Mrs. Gude is the proud grandparent of three—two of whom she was able to teach at Trinity. She looks forward to this retirement so she can spend more time with her family, continue to teach piano lessons, and continue to serve as the director of the choir at the church.

Mary Gude has seen Trinity Lutheran School and the hundreds of children who have passed through her classroom as her calling from God. Her kindness, goodness, strength, and love of God shines through in all she does and is forever part of the children who have been fortunate enough to have her as a teacher. In the words of Jesus, in Matthew 25:21, "... Well done, thou good and faithful servant ..."

### HONORING THE 761ST TANK BATTALION

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 761st Tank Battalion of World War II. On November 8, 1944 the men of the 761st became the first all black infantry unit to see combat. They successfully overtook the towns of Moyenvic and Vic-sur-Seille, which were occupied by German forces.

"Come Out Fighting," was the motto of the 761st also known as the Black Panthers. Their motto personified their tremendous sacrifice and selflessness in defeating the German army in World War II.

For 183 days, the Black Panthers fought four major engagements across six European nations. Their courageous effort contributed to the overtaking of Tillet, Belgium, a German occupied area that no other armed force could successfully take. The Black Panthers also penetrated the Seigfried Line allowing the 4th Armored Division to cross the Rhine River.

On May 6, 1945, as the easternmost Americans, the 761st ended their combat mission with a rendezvous with the First Ukrainian Army at the Steye River in Austria. The Black Panthers were the first Americans to meet the Russian Army.

In 1978, the Black Panthers were awarded a Presidential Unit Citation, 33 years after the war ended. Their recognition was long overdue.

Their tremendous sacrifices and sense of duty proved to be indispensable to the Allied Forces' war effort against the Axis powers. It gives me great pleasure to rise and join with my congressional colleagues in recognition of this elite battalion.

### TRIBUTE TO MR. THOMAS P. INFUSINO

### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the life and work of an